

June 29, 1998

NELAC Field Standards - Q&A

1) What exactly is field measurement?

For NELAC purposes, field measurement is environmental testing done for compliance purposes which is outside the scope of standards which have been established for fixed laboratories; examples include: air emissions testing, field analysis for soil gas, and field radiation surveys. It is the intent of NELAC to establish field standards; the *ad hoc* Field Measurements Committee was created for that purpose.

2) Why should there be a standing committee for Sampling and Field Measurements?

Field standards can best be established by a combination of 1) amending existing NELAC standards to include field activities, and 2) creating a separate chapter for standards which are distinctly different from existing standards. A standing committee is necessary to develop the standards for the new chapter as well as to coordinate with other committees the revision of other NELAC chapters.

3) If NELAC adopts sampling standards, will all sampling be required to meet those standards?

No. Like all of the NELAC standards, each state will decide what activities must follow NELAC standards. Most states participating in NELAC have indicated interest in field standards, but few currently have standards for sampling or other field activities.

4) Won't field standards involve a lot of organizations that currently do not participate in NELAC? How will we get their input into the standard-setting process?

Some additional organizations are involved in field standards. At the request of the NELAC Board, a communications strategy has been developed to increase the participation in standard development.

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COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY FOR NELAC STANDARDS

1. Whom does NELAC need to communicate with that is not currently involved in NELAC?
 - A. Government agencies
 1. Federal - field staff
 2. State - field staff
 3. Local
 - B. Professional Organizations
 1. Instrument Society of America (ISA)
 2. American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM)
 3. Air and Waste Management Association (AWMS)
 4. Source Evaluation Society (SES)
 5. American Society for Quality
 6. Interagency Steering Committee on Quality Assurance of Environmental Measurements (QAEM)
 - C. Industry Groups
 1. Presentation by committee members to Industry Groups
 2. Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)
 3. National Coalition of Air and Stream Improvement (NCASI)
 4. American Petroleum Institute (API)
2. What do we need to communicate?
 - A. NELAC Purpose
 - B. NELAC Structure
 - C. Addition of sampling and field measurement standards
 - D. Who will be affected by accreditation
 - E. Accreditation benefits
 - F. Existing standards
3. How will we communicate?
 - A. Letters and/or e-mails to members of groups above
 - B. Invite above groups to view a satellite broadcast of A-D above
 - C. Send out video tapes of a satellite broadcast to groups above
4. When will we communicate?
 - A. Begin now and throughout this year making presentations to groups above
 - B. A satellite broadcast taping this summer and broadcast in Fall '98
 - C. Video tapes available Fall '98